

October 12, 2021.

Good morning.

I am so happy to be here with you today, and it's my honor to share this podium on a beautiful autumn morning with my friends and colleagues Chief Don Stephens, Senator Patrick Leahy, Chad Farrell of Encore Renewable Energy, Matt Murphy of Green Backer Capital, Mari McClure of Green Mountain Power, Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, Middlebury Select board chairman Brian Carpenter, and the College's own Simone Ameer. Senator Leahy, as a professor of religion I already made arrangements with the heavens for this weather—so you didn't need to make the law!

We come together today as responsible stewards of this planet and of this place we are blessed to call home—Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], the town of Middlebury, the county of Addison, the state of Vermont.

We gather to recognize the generations who came before us in making this very place what it is today, and we do so in service of the generations to come, to ensure that Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], Middlebury, Addison County, and Vermont remain places where the health of our environment is paramount, and where our people can come together in concert, rather than competition, to maintain a livable community and planet.

When we at Middlebury announced our Energy 2028 initiative three years ago, we laid out an ambitious ten-year plan, pledging that in a decade's time we would sharply reduce our energy consumption as an institution; reduce and then eliminate our investment in fossil fuels; craft a large educational initiative to continue our research and scholarship into climate change—and, in perhaps our boldest promise, rely completely on renewable energy sources to power our Vermont campus.

The solar array project on which we break ground today takes us one large step closer to realizing this goal, as it is expected to provide nearly one-third of the energy needed to power our campus. This groundbreaking comes on the heels of the start-up of the largest anaerobic digester in the Northeastern United States at the Goodrich Farm in nearby Salisbury, another local project and partnership that is supplying renewable natural gas to the College and community.

Each of these efforts—indeed, all of our efforts to meet our Energy 2028 goals—are collaborative by design, because we all have a stake in the outcome. Just as our plan was crafted in a spirit of independence, in which no individual part could work without the other, the same can be said for our partnerships. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today.

In a few weeks, on a platform a little bit bigger than this one and with just a few more people in attendance, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will convene in Glasgow, Scotland. The comparisons in scope between that and this, here and there, may cause some to peer at us today and wonder: what's the point? We're so small!

As I have written and spoken in the past, a local initiative such as this one is exactly the point, the point being that local wisdom and local practices are the ideal conditions to help put out the fire that is consuming our planet. The sun is one of the oldest symbols known to humans; it is in the earliest cave paintings tens of thousands of years ago, and in the earliest spoken prayers of more than 3000 years ago. It is only fitting that we should return, indeed come full circle, to the sun to heal our planet.

We are so blessed to call this place home.

The Green Mountains rest behind me.

In my mind's eye, I can already envision the sheep that will graze beneath the solar arrays, managing the vegetation growing in these fields.

And up above, in a sky that Sabra Field herself could have painted, a golden light will not only illuminate the beauty of our surroundings but will allow us to take another critical step toward building a sustainable future.

Thank you, everyone of you, for your help in building a new world.

LAURIE L. PATTON,
President, Middlebury.

TRIBUTE TO ADELINE DRUART

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, these days, it is not uncommon for people to frequently change careers, companies, or job paths. At one iconic Vermont entity, though, Vermont Creamery, president and chief executive officer Adeline Druart has dedicated more than 17 years to growing and expanding the company's product line and brand. She was recently featured on the Positive Enterprise Podcast, and hers is a story in which all Vermonters can find pride and motivation.

The cheese and butter that Vermont Creamery produces is some of the best in the world. As a Certified B Corporation, Vermont Creamery follows a long Vermont legacy of investing in environmental sustainability, local supply chains, and worker satisfaction. These investments have clearly paid off. In 2017, Vermont Creamery was acquired by Land O'Lakes, a century-old farmer-owned cooperative, and has continued on an impressive path of conscious growth. With Land O'Lakes' support, Vermont Creamery has expanded its facilities nearly 40 percent and is now a recognizable brand in grocery stores across the country. In 2020, the company supported our community through the pandemic, donating 12,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters, providing hazard pay to their employees, and advocating for universal childcare for Vermont's working families. They also converted their Websterville-based facility to run on 100-percent renewable energy. And these changes have only underlined their belief that consciously crafted products made with the best ingredients just taste better. Today, the beloved Vermont Creamery makes the No. 1 best-selling goat cheese in the country.

Adeline Druart is responsible for so much of this impressive growth. In the early 2000s, Adeline, then a student from France, came to Vermont Creamery to complete an internship for her master's degree. She just couldn't stay away. Adeline worked her way up the ranks at the creamery, before being named president and CEO in 2015. In that role, she has shown exactly what tenacity and hard work, when paired with a people-first approach to business, can do. The mother of two young sons, Adeline has reinforced Vermont Creamery's original family-oriented

culture while steering the company's growth. She is an inspiration to me, and I am so proud that she calls Vermont home.

Vermont is home to some of the finest agriculture, wood-based, and other products in the country. We feature many of these at the annual Taste of Vermont here in Washington, a tradition I hope to return to next year. At the helm of so many of these Vermont companies are people like Adeline. It is in these hard-working and creative leaders that we can find great hope for Vermont's economic recovery and vibrant future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEVESQUE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in economic development in the State of Maine. Steve Levesque, of Greenville, ME, is retiring after 41 years of professional experience in the areas of economic and community progress, land use planning, and environmental services in both the private and public sectors, including when I was Governor as commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development. Most recently, Steve has made an indelible mark in his position as executive director of Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, MRRA. From his first days in economic and community development in Maine, Steve has held a number of leadership positions in which he has led and advocated tirelessly for local, regional, and State economies with consistent messages of the quality of the business environment in Maine alongside our quality of life as Mainers.

In 2005, there were indications that the Naval Air Station Brunswick, NASB, would be disestablished and Steve, at that time, led the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority, charged with overseeing the successful completion of the Reuse Master Plan for NASB. He has been MRRA's only executive director since its formation in 2008. In 2011, when NASB officially closed, there were persistent doomsday forecasts about the hole that was left behind. Steve brought his own brand of fervency to MRRA to realize a dream of the adaptive reuse of the former base, now known as Brunswick Landing. He started by assembling a passionate and hard-working team and began carefully cultivating what would become critical and dedicated partnerships, developed over the years with so many groups: the Navy, the towns of Brunswick and Topsham, the State of Maine, all of Maine's congressional delegation, the FAA, and especially the impressive list of businesses and private developers who have invested in the vision to convert a former Navy base into an economic engine that

today holds more than 2,400 jobs, surpassing the \$150 million former Navy payroll.

When you read the list of other benchmarks at Brunswick Landing, over only 10 years—the creation of TechPlace, a manufacturing business incubator with 35 resident businesses; attraction of over a half billion dollars in private sector capital investment; property sales to more than 20 new property owners, including more than 650 units of workforce housing; more than \$150 million in new valuation and \$3 million in annual property taxes generated for the Towns of Brunswick and Topsham; more than \$40 million in upgrades to Brunswick Executive Airport's—BXM—infrastructure and buildings; more than \$100 million invested in new building construction and infrastructure projects owned by MRRA; creation of Brunswick Renewable Energy Center, including ownership of former Navy electrical grid with 3.5-megawatt load and 2 megawatts of on-site renewable electricity generation; 10 percent annual growth in air operations, based aircraft, and aviation fuel sales at BXM; environmental stewardship and wildlife habitat preservation, including transfer of more than 1,200 acres of open space and trails to the town of Brunswick and local land trust—it is no wonder Steve's leadership has been recognized, not once but twice, as a recipient of the Association of Defense Contractor's Community Leadership Award as well as by many other State development organizations. I join them wholeheartedly in recognizing Steve for demonstrating innovation and excellence in his work.

Even in his volunteer time, Steve serves on a number of industry and economic development boards, including the Loring Development Authority of Maine, Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation, Owls Head Transportation Museum, and the Maine Spaceport Leadership Council, to name a few. Steve has also served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps as an aircraft mechanic.

Due to Steve's commitment to economic development and ability to secure funding for a variety of initiatives throughout the years, there has been continued high quality service for new and expanding businesses here in Maine. His ability to coordinate programs and foster partnerships were critical factors in his success, whether it be at the local, State, or national level. As a champion of economic development, I join with his colleagues, friends, and the people of Maine in thanking Steve for his unwavering service to the economic development of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN MINER

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I wish to honor and recognize a true hero from Phillipsburg, KS, Deputy Sheriff

John Miner. On November 4, 2020, Deputy Miner responded to an accident caused by a semi-truck colliding with multiple vehicles in Long Island, KS. What was already a scary situation on its own turned worse when fuel from the semi began leaking and ignited shortly after.

A raging fire quickly started, and suddenly, bystanders realized two toddlers—a 4-year-old and 2-year-old—were stuck in one of the cars caught in the accident. Without a second thought, Deputy Miner performed his duty to protect and serve by leaping straight into the whipping fire to rescue those two children. With just a pocketknife, he was able to cut through the seatbelts trapping them and pulled them out miraculously unharmed. Deputy Miner, however, suffered second- and third-degree burns which required skin grafts. Thankfully, he has since recovered from his injuries.

This valiant story caught the attention of many in Kansas and, now, around the Nation, as Deputy Miner has been awarded the Carnegie medal for an extraordinary act of heroism. This award is bestowed on a select few each year for showing true bravery and courage in the face of danger. Deputy Miner is absolutely deserving of this award after rescuing those two children last year from certain death.

I want to thank this brave officer for being so courageous to dive headfirst into peril. As the son of a police chief, I know the risks our men and women in blue take on each day, and they are the most admirable citizens for continually working to ensure our safety. Deputy Miner has shown what true valor looks like, and Phillipsburg is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Deputy Miner and that he may stay safe protecting his community.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH LEBANON

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the designation of South Lebanon as an Official City in Ohio. In accordance with section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, a municipality that reaches 5,000 residents in the State of Ohio, automatically becomes a city. Since 2000, the municipality of South Lebanon has grown 151 percent and has reached a population of 6,384.

The growing population of South Lebanon also comes with a rich history. South Lebanon is the oldest town in Warren County, OH, and was also deemed one of the most important towns on the Little Miami River in the late 1700s. In its early days of settlement, it was a stopping place for many pioneers who were venturing across the country in search of a new life. Today, that same town that was a place of possibility and refuge to so many early pioneers has become a booming economic power, bringing new jobs, good

schools, and a strong sense of community.

I am proud to see South Lebanon be recognized for its growth and perseverance as it continues to expand, making Ohio a great place to live and work.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1029. An act to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4089. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at a point of sale of a covered rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4369. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to provide for designation of institutions of higher education that provide research, data, and leadership on advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing as National Centers of Excellence in Advanced and Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11116), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Ms. Sharyl Davis of San Francisco, California, to a 3-year term, and Ms. Renee Rodriguez-Betan-court of Edinburg, Texas, to a 2-year term.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1029. An act to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in